

**REMARKS**

Claims 8, 18, 22-27 and 29, pending in the present application are allowed.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

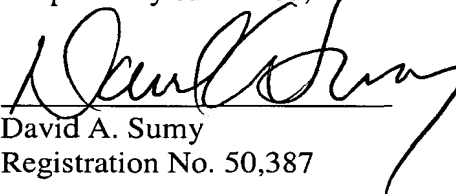
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**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Registration No. 50,387

Date: August 18, 2003